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From : Aden, Arabia. Despatch No.110

To : The Department of State, Washington. January 4, 1952

Ref :

Subject: Yemeni Charge' in Washington's Conversation with Iranian Prime Minister.

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The Sana'ani bi-weekly newspaper, Al-Iman, issue no. 288, dated December 16, 1951 - just arrived in Aden - carries an interesting account of an interview purportedly granted the Yemeni Charge' d'Affaires in Washington by the Prime Minister of Iran, Dr. MOSSADEGH, during the latter's recent visit to the United States. An English translation of the article is given below for the information of the Department:

"We have been informed that the Acting Consul of Yemen had an interview with Dr. Mossadegh in Washington and enjoyed nearly a half hour's conversation with the latter. His Excellency offered the Iranian Minister due respects on behalf of the Imam and the Foreign Ministry. He likewise congratulated him on his success in the dispute with Britain over the question of oil.

"His Excellency, Dr. Mossadegh replied: 'I profoundly thank you and the leaders and members of your Government. I desire to express to you my kind and sincere hope that the religious ties which link the Muslim states will be strengthened and enable us to work together to resist the communist threat. The principles of communism and those of our religion do not agree in any way. The Muslim peoples should follow the teachings of Islam and should adhere to their faith most tenaciously lest they be overrun by communism.'

"The conversation then turned to the subject of Iranian oil and the Yemeni representative remarked: 'I feel proud that you have nationalized your oil wells and wish you every success as well as prosperity for the Iranian people and ourselves success in solving our present problems with Great Britain.'

"Dr. Mossadegh replied: 'We have a proverb which states, 'The child who fails to cry out does not get his mother's milk'. Therefore it is incumbent upon every nation to demand its rights by peaceful negotiations as we have done. I and the Iranian people hope that you may recover those rights which have been devoured by the British and we shall lend you our full support in your efforts to attain those rights'.

"'Two reasons have forced us to nationalize our oil, one political

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and one, economic. As for the political, our country extend-s over an area of 2,400 square miles and our neighbors to the north are not willing to see the British in our land and have our country exploited by acountry 6,000 kilometers removed from Iran. We, of course, are unable to reject Soviet demands since we are weak and they are powerful. Only the strong can reject the demands of such a gigantic power. Hence, we could find no solution other than this, viz. to oust the British from our country. If we had permitted the Soviets to exploit the northern parts of our country they would employ their communist parties and would constitute a dangerous menace to the nation which might possibly result in a civil war between its northern and southern parts. The solution we arrived at was the best possible.'

"'With respect to the economic reason, we have a deficit of 300-400/ million dinars. There are innumberable laborers stranded and unemployed throughout the country. The amount required to satisfy the needs of these unemployed people is no less than one million dollars. Under these circumstances, we reluctantly found ourselves forced to lay our hands on the petroleum products and to employ foreign techncians. We have taken this step and pray that God will lend us aid and succor.'"

No comment would seem to be required.

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L. Pittman Springs,
American Consul.

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Central File: Decimal File 686H.88, International Political Relations. Other International Relations., Political Relations Between Yeman And Iran., January 4, 1952. 4 Jan. 1952. MS Persian Gulf States and Yemen, 1950-1959: Record Group 59: General Records of the Department of State, Central Classified Files, Kuwait (86D), Muscat and Oman (86E), Qatar (86F), the Trucial Sheikhs (86G), and Yemen (86H). Internal Political, National Defense, Economic, Industrial, Social, and Ot. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com/apps/doc/SC5108523663/GDSC?u=uagm&sid=GDSC&xid=8acb99c3&pg=1. Accessed 5 May 2021.